

**US 276**

from Avery Creek Trail Head to Fish Hatchery Road (SR 1408)

Local ID: **TRAN0023-H**

Purpose: **Facility Deficiencies**

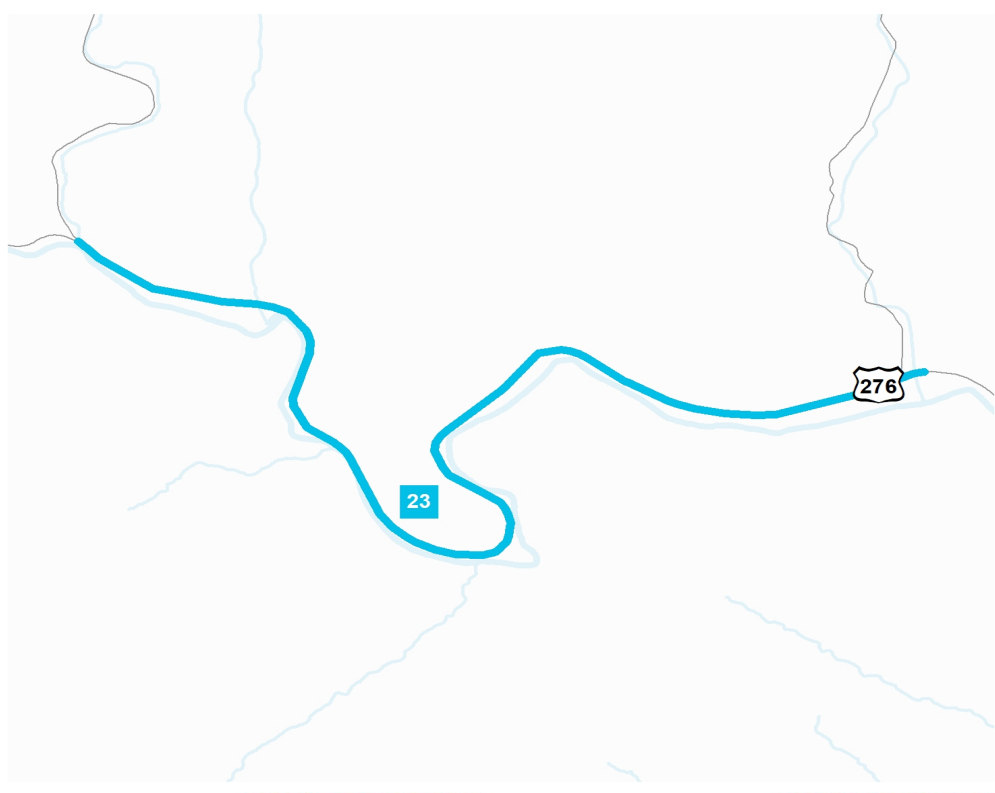
Improvement: **Improve Existing**

**Identified Need**

US 276 has no paved shoulder and lane widths of 10 feet. It is part of the Transylvania County Bicycle Plan (2019). There are multiple tourists destinations along this route that are accessed by both hikers and cyclist.

**Recommendation**

Improve alignment, lane widths, and shoulders to current design standards. In order to accommodate bicycles, a 5-foot paved shoulder is recommended.



	Local ID #	Improve	New Location		Local ID #	Improve	New Location
Congestion / Mobility	#	—	—	Interchange	⊙	□	■
Access Management / Operations	#	—	—	Bridge / Overpass	⊙	○	●
Modernization	#	—	—	Intersection	⊙	∠	▲
Other	#	—	—				

**Proposal At A Glance**

Highway Class	Modernization
Facility Type	Major Thoroughfare 2-lane
Typical Section	02 B
Section Options	-
Estimated Cost	-
Length (miles)	3.1
Existing ROW (feet)	60
Safety Risk Score	-

**Proposal Data: 2017 Base Year 2045 Future Year**

Improved Route	Existing	Without Proposal	With Proposal
<i>Facility Type</i>	Major Thoroughfare 2-lane	Major Thoroughfare 2-lane	Major Thoroughfare 2-lane
<i>Travel Lanes</i>	2	2	2
<i>Volume (vpd)</i>	1800	3100	-
<i>Capacity (vpd)</i>	15100	15100	15100

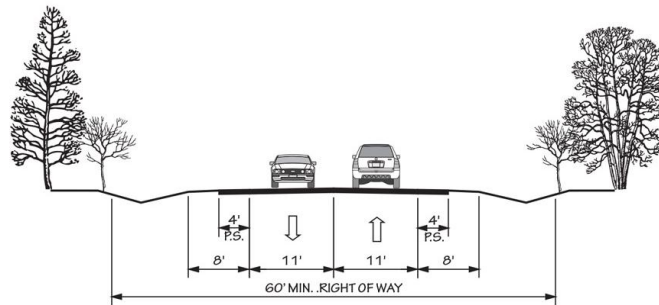
**Capacity Data:** Year

Facility will be Approaching Capacity (>80%)	-
Facility will be Over Capacity (>=100%)	-



**Typical Section Options:**

None

**TYPICAL SECTION No. 2B****2 LANES UNDIVIDED WITH PAVED SHOULDERS**

POSTED SPEED 25-45 MPH

**Project Overview**Linkage to Other Plans

According to the 2013 Blue Ridge Bike Plan, this facility is part of the "Priority County Corridor" from Brevard to the Blue Ridge Parkway. According to the 2025 Transylvania County Comprehensive Plan, this facility is part of the "Regional On-Road Bicycle Routes" identified in that plan. It is classified as a major collector on the Federal Functional Classification System.

Multi-Modal Considerations

Transylvania County Transit, under the name "Transylvania in Motion" operates a fixed route as well as demand response system within the county. The deviated-fixed route does not reach this facility; however, it is within the demand-response area. In order to accommodate bicycles, 5-foot paved shoulders are recommended on this facility.

Goals & Objectives Survey

The citizens of Transylvania County responded to a public survey in early 2019 with a great deal of support for new greenways, sidewalks, and multi-use paths. When asked for their top three most important project types, these categories ranked first, third and fifth, out of a dozen choices. Rounding out the top five were maintenance and safety projects at second and fourth respectfully. When asked to rank transportation goals, the respondents gave two, preservation of the natural beauty and community character and increasing the number transportation mode choices, substantial net positive scores; improved connectivity, and economic development about neutral; and improved travel time was poorly scored, receiving over 50% of the lowest rank.

Natural & Human Environmental Context

Based on planning level environmental assessment using

available GIS data, the proposed project intersects the Pisgah National Forest & Gamelands. According to LHI Guild Analysis, this project intersects multiple guilds of the Mesic Hardwood, Mixed Forest, Sparsely Settled Mixed Habitats, Woodland, and Barrens variety. These are predominantly A-ranked resources with the balance being B-ranked. It is also within the vicinity of the Looking Glass Rock Natural Heritage Area.